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**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

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Please amend the written specification as follows wherein added text is indicated with underlining and deleted text is indicated with ~~striketrough~~ or [[double brackets]]:

Please replace the paragraph [33] on page 8 as follows:

[33] The master data processing system 4000 may serve as a middle layer of variable 2111 and rule 2121 based processing between the master data management system 2000 and the maintenance management system 3000 in providing the maintenance management system 3000 [[300]] with object-related knowledge. Generating the object-related knowledge on a need-to-use basis may further help to reduce the overall data storage burden of a master data management system 2000 by storing less data in the master data 8100, reduce the computational burden by limiting data analysis to events as events arise, and provide added flexibility in data management.

Please replace the paragraph [39] on pages 9 and 10 as follows:

[39] Technical data 2143 for objects may be stored in a multi-level model, and a four-level model may be sufficient for most technical objects. A four-level model may include levels A, B, C, and D data, i.e., 2143A, 2143B, 2143C, and 2143D, for example. As an illustration, level "A" data 2143A may contain the "material"-like or "parts"-like data; level "B" data 2143B may contain "assembly"-like data or "spare parts"-like data; level "C" data 2134C [[2143D]] may contain serialized data; and level "D" data 2143D may contain individual technical data. Depending on various factors, such as the usage, importance, location, criticality, financial value of an object 7000, level A, B, C, and D data, 2143A-D, may be stored. In one embodiment, all levels may be linked and hierarchical. The external key 2142 possibly may coincide with or comprise the level A data 2143A, the level D data 2143D, or both, depending on the user's preferences. The external key 2142, however, need not overlap at all with levels A and D data 2143A, D.

Please replace the paragraph [44] on page 11 as follows:

[44] As alluded to above in reference to the Exit sign example, the user may desire to indicate, among other things, an object's location and date of installation, price paid, state and date of repair, presence of replacement parts, criticality, importance, risk, etc., as admin data 2144A-D 2144A-I. Because the level of detail appropriate for a given object 7000 may be unknown or change over time, the user may add or delete details within administration data 2144 when necessary. The administration data 2144 preferably may embody a minimum amount of data 8000 necessary to assist in uniquely identifying an object 7000, on the one hand, and to represent the importance or criticality of an object 7000.

Please replace the paragraph [49] on page 13 as follows:

[49] Master data 8100 may be archived and deleted if, in accordance with parameters set by the user, the specific master data 8100 are deemed to be no longer necessary for the normal operations of the asset management system 1000. Insofar as the fade out indicator 210 may schedule the associated data to be archived and deleted, the fade out indicator 2150 may be updated when the associated data are retrieved or altered. Generally speaking, master data 8100 and the fade out indicators 2150 may be updated when the master data 8100 are, or the associated object 7000 is, subject to consideration, such as when the master data 8100 are, or the object 7000 is, subject to maintenance, interrogation, evaluation, or observation. Retrieval or alteration of the associated data may be considered to indicate a minimum level of necessity to avoid archiving the associated data as soon as previously projected. For example, each time an object 7000 is subject to changes, maintenance or inspection activities, or even displayed by a user, the system may update the "fade out" indicator 2150 and develop an activity history for the object 7000 [[700]] with a description of the type of activity performed, when the activity was performed, and user identification information about who performed the activity..